

The Senator from Virginia, [Mr. Mason.] when asked the wall for the legal origin of Slavery, affirmed that it was established in the colonies by a common law of England; and see how he knows.

"If the honorable Senator from Maine desires to know what maxim or provision of the common law treats slaves as property, I will say to him at the common law of England, so justly called the consummation of human wisdom, recognised everything as property which was the subject of a property right; and from this it was easily deduced, prohibited by some positive law of that state; and thus it was, that when slaves were landed in Virginia, there being no law there at the common law, they were admitted as other property, that law recognising that as their condition in the colonies was the same as it would be, the condition of property did not attach to them until they reached the soil of Virginia, but they bought it with them. Such has been the law from that day to this."

"How that property arose, it is not so easy to